



APPROVED MINUTES
Idaho Soil Conservation Commission
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Governor
Dirk Kempthorne

Commission members
Jerry Reid
Bill Whittom
J. Morgan Evans
Gary Grindstaff
Tom Johnston

Administrator
Jerry Nicolescu

The Idaho Soil Conservation Commission held a regularly scheduled meeting on November 10, 2004 in the Palouse Room at University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho.

Chairman Whittom called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m. Attendance was as follows:

Members: Bill Whittom - Chairman
J. Morgan Evans – Vice-Chair
Gary Grindstaff – Secretary
Jerry Reid – Member
Tom Johnston – Member

Others: Jerry Nicolescu, ISCC
Brenda Thomasson, ISCC
Kathie Shea, ISCC
Christy Mastin, ISCC
Lynn Tominaga, IGA/IIPA
Todd Wittman, NPSWCD
Denny Dau, NPSWCD
Robert Blair, NPSWCD
Kyle Wilson, NPSWCD
John Hermann, NPSWCD

Whittom welcomed everyone to the meeting. Nicolescu introduced Lynn Tominaga to all present.

Evans moved to change the term of the loan request of Ivan Shetler (presented by Mastin on November 7, 2004) to four years and approve with the other conditions as recommend. Johnston seconded and the motion carried.

Lynn Tominaga presented the request of the Lindsay Lateral Water Users Association. The project is to install a pressurized water system to convert urban land users from a flood irrigation system. The project would fit under the guidelines of the State Revolving Fund and would eliminate virtually all run-off in the area. The city of Boise has new regulations that require catch

basins or containment ponds for excess irrigation waters. Tominaga presented a large map of the area involved and explained his involvement in the project. He represents the water users in the area, many of whom are elderly and on fixed incomes, or are young families just starting out that also do not have a lot of disposable income. Tominaga's job is to investigate funding sources with an interest rate low enough that those involved in the project could repay the loan. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$1.2 million. The group requests an interest rate of two percent. If the project is approved, an improvement district will be formed to handle the details. An 1887 water right is offered as collateral for the loan. Evans moved to approve the concept with a cost analysis on the interest rate to be offered for the Lindsay Lateral project. Johnston seconded and the motion carried.

Johnston moved to enter Executive Session pursuant to I.C. 67-2345 to discuss legal and personnel issues. Grindstaff seconded. Roll call vote; Evans – Aye; Grindstaff – Aye; Reid – Aye; Johnston – Aye. Motion carried. The Commission entered executive session at 8:45 a.m. The members of the NezPerce Soil and Water Conservation District were invited to remain, along with Jerry Nicolescu. All others left the meeting.

Whittom declared the Commission out of Executive session at 9:40 a.m. Nicolescu distributed copies of the report from South, Johnson and Company, the firm hired to perform the audit of the RCRDP program. The firm is scheduled to give a formal report to the members at the January 2005 Commission meeting. Some of the findings included the need to clarify the policy as to when loan requests should be placed in the SRF program rather than the RCRDP program; loans in bankruptcy; UCC filings; and mail procedures. Thomasson explained that some of these issues have already been addressed, and clarified the issue with a UCC filing on the Ekins loan. Evans suggested taking this loan to the bankruptcy attorney for further handling.

Thomasson then explained the new mail-handling procedures put in place by the Department and the SCC. Mail is received at the front-desk by the ISDA receptionist. It is then opened, date and time stamped and any checks received are immediately stamped "for deposit only" before the mail is routed to SCC staff. Any checks for loan payments received are entered into the computer system, primarily by Jennifer

Ambrose, or by Thomasson, if Ambrose is out of the office. A payment receipt is automatically generated by the computer program, which Mastin then signs. Copies are made of each check and receipt and then placed in the proper loan file. The original receipt is mailed to the borrower. A copy of the receipt, copy of the check, and the actual check are then routed to the ISDA Fiscal department for deposit. The new procedure seems to be working well, but is still being refined.

Whittom called a break at 10:00 a.m. and the meeting adjourned until 10:20 a.m. when Whittom called it back to order. Grindstaff moved to again enter Executive Session to discuss legal and personnel issues pursuant to I.C. 67-2345. Johnston seconded. Roll call vote; Evans – Aye; Grindstaff – Aye; Reid – Aye; Johnston – Aye. Motion carried and the Commission entered Executive Session at 10:25 a.m. The members of the NezPerce Soil and Water Conservation District were invited to remain, along with Jerry Nicolescu. All others left the meeting.

Whittom declared the meeting out of Executive Session at 11:11 a.m. Evans moved to accept the recommendations of the Nez Perce Board and suggested that the Commission continue to work with them to further conservation. Grindstaff seconded and the motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, Whittom adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Brenda Thomasson, Management Assistant